

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02075 211214Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05

SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 HA-05 L-03 H-01 PA-01 USIA-06

/104 W

-----070465 211455Z /46

R 211117Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5131

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO POUCH

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USNATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

COMUSFORAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2075

BURSSSELS FOR USMISSION EC ALSO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: ELAB, PO

SUBJECT: LABOR MINISTER DISCUSSES ILO

REF: (A) STATE 38223 (DTG 141401Z FEB 78)

(B) STATE 64501 (DTG 140421Z MAR 78)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 02075 211214Z

(C) LISBON 1431 (DTG 241644Z FEB 78)

SUMMARY: LABOR MINISTER MALDONADO GONELHA SAYS THE GOP
IS WHOLLY SUPPORTIVE OF EFFORTS IN THE ILO TO CREATE
CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD PERMIT AN EARLY US RETURN. HOWEVER,
HE IS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS. END SUMMARY.

1. LABOR MINISTER MALDONADO GONELHA TOLD THE LABATT MARCH 16 THAT THE US DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO WILL HAVE DIRE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ORGANIZATION. HE SAID THAT, DESPITE EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS, THE ILO WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE SPECTER OF FINANCIAL COLLAPES OR, AT BEST, CURTAILING ACTIVITIES TO SUCH A DEGREE AS TO MAKE THE ORGANIZATION INEFFECTIVE. CHALLENGING SOVIET DOMINATION UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, HE SAID, IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

2. MALDONADO AGREES IN PRINICPLE WITH THE US ASSESSMENT OF THE ILO, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO ITS POLITIZATION AND THE EFFECT ON APPLICATION OF STANDARDS. THE MINISTER DID NOT COMMENT ON ALL POINTS MENTIONED IN REFTELS, BUT PROMISED TO REVIEW AN ISSUES PAPER PREPARED BY THE EMBASSY. REGARDING STRUCTURAL REFORM OF THE GOVERNING BODY, HE SAID MOVEMENT IN THAT DIRECECTION WAS INEVITABLE BUT THE ABILITY OF WESTERN DEMOCRACIES TO DEAL WITH THIS AND OTHER ISSUES HAS BEEN IMPAIRED BY THE US ABSENCE. HE IS, THEREFORE, PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR EFFECTING THE CHANGES WHICH WOULD ENCOURAGE OUR EARLY RETURN TO THE ILO.

3. MALDONADO SAID THAT WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING THE GOP ARE IN SUBSTANTIAL ACCORD WITH US VIEWS OF THE ILO AND WANT TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENCOURAGE OUR RETURN. COMMENTING ON HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE 1977
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LISBON 02075 211214Z

INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE, MALDONADO PRAISED LABOR SECRETARY MARSHALL FOR HIS CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE AT THE CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, HE FELT THE AFL-CIO WAS TOO VIGOROUS-- AND AT TIMES BELABORED THE OBVIOUS WHICH WAS NOT ALWAYS HELPFUL. WEST EUROPEANS, HE SAID, ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF SOVIET INTENTIONS; COUNTRIES LIKE PORTUGAL, WHERE THE SOVIETS ARE CONCENTRATING, HARDLY NEED REMINDING.

BLOOMFIELD

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